DECEMBER 196

TOC H JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, EC3

NINEPENCE

ADVANCE NOTICE

On Tuesday, February 12, the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society is presenting,

'PINK CHAMPAGNE'

at the Scala Theatre, London, for Toc H. This musical, an adaptation of the Johann Strauss operetta, "Die Fledermaus," promises to be another successful evening for Toc H.

Enquiries to Ken Rogers at Headquarters.

Acknowledgement

The poem *The Unknown* on page 436 first appeared in *The Farmer & Stock-breeder* and is reprinted with acknowledgements.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen.

DECEMBER, 1962

FORTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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COVER PICTURE: Toy Workshop: Uxbridge members repairing old toys which are then distributed to Children's Homes.

Photograph by courtesy of Middlesex County Press.

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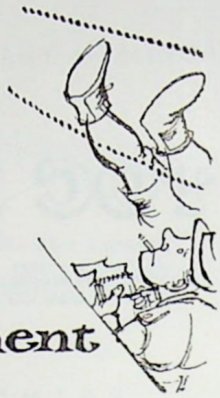
LONDON EC3 · TELEPHONE ROYAL 0472

IN AND OUT

-notes & comment



TWELVE YEARS ago a small group of people set out to counter commercial Christmas advertising by putting Christ back into Christmas. The result was a series of beautiful posters which have appeared each Advent on hoardings throughout the country. This year the newly formed Religion in Britain Society is linking with the Christmas Poster Campaign in an endeavour to repeat the poster as a newspaper advertisement. The aim is to greatly extend the effect of the Campaign's Christmas advertising, and to draw attention to the true purpose and meaning of Christmas. The Religion in Britain Society is approaching all National and Provincial newspaper proprietors asking them to donate space to carry a reproduction of the Christmas Poster. The Society will provide the necessary blocks and stereos for this purpose. This year's poster, reproduced here, is a particularly beautiful illustration of the Virgin Mary holding the Baby Jesus, and carries the title "This day is born to us a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Christmas Poster

Remembrance Parade

MEMBERS OF TOC H—some very young—again this year attended the Parade and service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The contingent numbered about seventy-five, of whom thirty later journeyed to Toc H Headquarters where an excellent lunch (prepared by four of the office typists) awaited them. This additional opportunity of meeting was very much appreciated and lively discussion went on well into the afternoon.

Voluntary Workers

THE SUBJECT for discussion at this year's Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Social Service was "The recruitment and training of voluntary workers" and the opening speaker was Lady Reading, who, it will be remembered, made so fine a contribution at this year's conference session of our Central Council Meeting. Once again Lady Reading had many wise and understanding things to say and once again she said them with vigour and humour. She defined the most important qualification for the voluntary worker as the quality of goodness, and affirmed her belief that most people are basically good but are often unaware of their own best qualities. Training consisted in helping men and women to discover and develop their latent strengths. To all this, we in Toc H would say a loud "Hear, hear", for our whole Movement is built around these beliefs.

Integration and Housing

WINE, WOMEN AND SPORT are among the main spare time activities of Commonwealth and Irish immigrants to Britain, according to a report recently made by the *Economist* Intelligence Unit. The report, one of a series on Commonwealth immigration by the Unit and called "Social Integration and Housing" (2s. 6d) also deals with overcrowding among immigrants. It says that 13 per cent of Pakistani immigrants and 5 per cent of the West Indians in the survey were sharing their accommodation with ten or more people. Most immigrants had only one room when they first arrived in Britain but moved to accommodation with more rooms after a year. The highest level of house ownership or rental was among immigrants in Manchester, Coventry and Nottingham: the lowest in London. The West Indians seemed more inclined than the others to buy houses to let to their compatriots. Birmingham authorities estimated that about 6,000 coloured people owned houses in the city, the average buying price being £2,000. The Pakistanis, at 40, had the highest percentage intending to return home.

Church Publicity

SPEAKING TO 700 clergy at the Norwich Diocesan Conference, the Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Cuthbert Bardsley, urged the Church to use modern methods to attract the public. "We have many rivals, and I do not only mean the Communists, who rely on first-class films, speakers, and good cheap literature." The bishop criticised untidy notice boards, Victorian vases with badly-arranged flowers, tiled floors and Victorian stained glass windows, and "gas lit halls of olive green and muddy brown, smelling of damp mustiness, burnt candle grease and spent incense." He said that for too long the Church had been content with harmoniums and that "soul-destroying bell at matins". It was better not to have a bell at all. Magazines were an open-air pulpit and got into so many homes. There was nothing worse than a badly-printed invitation to the Church. The Church was too contented with hymns written in 1845 and there was a false impression that clergy were wealthy, lazy and middle class.

Singing Carols

A LARGE proportion of the tapes in our tape recording library were produced by the London Staff Team and are intended "to start you talking". The latest addition to the library could well start you singing, for recently the Toc H London Male Voice Choir, who have many engagements to sing carols at Christmastime, were asked by a London Branch to record some of them on tape. Their selection of eleven well-known carols interspersed with short Bible readings telling the Christmas story, runs for approximately 40 minutes. A copy can be borrowed for a fixed date (it's a good plan to give an alternative one) by sending five shillings to the Publications Dept. at Toc H Headquarters. The recording is on a 5¼ inch spool at a speed of 3¾ inches per second.

A Joyous Christmas
to all our Readers

Man's Oldest Enemy

DONALD TWEDDLE

This challenging article is written by the General Secretary of United Kingdom Committee of the Campaign

HUNGER is man's oldest enemy. It is also his biggest—at least, it is according to many scientists who can quote statistics which show that over half mankind is either badly fed or under-fed. One out of two people in the world exist on a diet that is inadequate in quantity or quality to maintain health, growth and vigour.

That is the situation today, in the year 1962. But what of the future? What of the year 2000 when it is estimated that the world's population will have doubled?

The increases that must be made in food surpluses by the end of this century to maintain even the present inadequate level of diet, range from about 100 per cent for Africa to 150 per cent for Asia and the Far East, 200 per cent for Latin America and 120 per cent for the world as a whole.

If the level of the diet is to be raised to provide adequate intakes of vitamins, minerals and proteins for all people, the increases in both quantity and quality of food supplies would have to be much higher than this. In fact total food supplies would have to be *tripled* by the turn of the century.

But having said that, I would now stress that the Freedom from Hunger Campaign is a campaign about people. It is about people who have problems which we can help them to solve but which we cannot solve for them. It is about people who do not ask for charity but for practical intelligently-directed co-operation.

Therefore the United Kingdom Committee of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign set itself two tasks. First, all our presentation of the facts of hunger, while not ignoring

the total picture, must move away from generalisations. We must begin to look at the problem in Africa, Asia, Europe; then in Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika; in India, Burma, Pakistan; in Greece and Sicily. It is in these places that the work has to be done.

United Nations

An Australian sheep expert advising on improvements for sheep and general livestock breeding in Libya.

Our second problem was to decide how to ensure that any funds raised during the Campaign would be used in ways which really would make a significant impact on the problems of the country where they were used. It is sometimes argued that the problems are so huge that only the most massive intergovernmental action can make any difference. This we do not believe to be true *at the moment*. In many countries even the most massive injections of capital would be ineffective in the absence of trained agriculturalists, technicians and administrators.

We work, therefore, by sponsoring individual 'projects' in the under-fed areas of the world. To vet all appeals for help, an expert group was set up under the chairmanship of Sir William Slater, for twelve years head of the

Agricultural Research Council. Every proposal for development is examined by this group and only when it is approved does it qualify for inclusion in the list upon which we base our appeal for funds.

This list includes many different things: farm institutes, training centres, agricultural colleges, fisheries institutes, nutritional education—every kind of training comes high in the list of priorities. Small irrigation schemes, demonstration projects, the introduction of new seeds, co-operative trading stores, cattle ranching projects—all are included. All have two things in common. They are based on proved successful techniques used elsewhere, and they have the full support of local peoples and governments. Only in this way can such projects make a permanent contribution to local problems.

This is how the U.K. Committee sees the Campaign in terms of immediate action. It does not and cannot end there. Whatever is done in starting to tackle these problems is only a beginning. Some time in the next ten to twenty years, nations are bound to awaken to the need for social and political action on the largest possible scale. ¶ Action of that kind is impossible without at least some general understanding throughout those nations of the reasons for the action they are asked to support. Therefore education in the fullest sense of the term—and not simply as a polite cover for fund-raising propaganda—is of the greatest importance.

For this reason we have set up also an Education Group and have worked carefully and patiently to secure the active interest of teachers for the work of the Campaign. They are not being asked to teach "Freedom from Hunger" but that the facts of hunger and underdevelopment should be linked to the teaching of subjects already in the curriculum—in geography, biology, economics, religious knowledge, and indeed in any possible context.

That is the background to the Campaign which was publicly launched by our patron, the Duke of Edinburgh,

last June. Since then we have been concentrating on the building up of local committees and it is here we would appreciate your help. If your district has not got a local committee, perhaps you could help form one.

If you can help you will be taking part in a truly international effort. The world-wide five-year Campaign was started by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and there are now 46 National Committees in existence.

Will you "help the hungry to help themselves"?

This is not a short term famine *relief* appeal, but a long term famine *removal* crusade. As an old Chinese proverb puts it so well: "If you give a man a fish you feed him for one day. If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for many days".

The Unknown

And in that manger, deep with hay,
All unaware he made a bed
Whereon the Saviour's royal head
Would rest before the break of day.

Though meekness and humility
O'erspread the lowly way he trod
That night he stood so near his God,
So near to immortality.

He played his part in shadows dim;
No pen records his noble name;
No monument his deeds proclaim—
Unknown to us, but known to Him.

HAROLD S. FISHER

The Old House Speaks

P. B. CLAYTON

"BEGIN ON the ground-floor with Everyman", murmured old Talbot House, "that is the first step. Welcome him, amuse him, surprise him, and excite his interest. Help him to find out where his friends are stationed, and whether there is anyone about who knows his village pump, or Mullins Meadows, or lives in the next street. Coincidence means falling in together, help this to happen. I have got to turn these strangers into friends. I have got to get these visitors concerned. I must think out each step. I must study my customers, as they move from the threshold inwards. Here is a Notice Board to win a smile. Yonder is a map, where they can find their homes. Beyond it is a rendezvous list, to which they can add their names and read the others. Beyond this is a piano and tea, a village shop and a demure old garden."

These are all things Everyman knows he needs; and the first fact in dealing with a man, is just to recognise his inclinations and let him feel he is free to make his choice.

"I must not be distressed", said the Old House, "if many men come in and get no further than the ground floor. This does not mean I've failed. Help me to recognise, Eternal Master, that your own method is the truest courtesy. You do not wish us to force men upstairs. If they can be persuaded, well and good; but we will have no force used in your house beyond the influence exercised by friendship."

"I never did," murmured the library, set with a shoehorn into one small room. "Here are men coming constantly to me and asking for all sorts and kinds of books. Yonder's a heap of service caps in pawn until the students turn back into soldiers. I am here to teach the Church that men have minds, and that those minds are hungering and thirsting. Men cannot really lift their hearts to God unless their minds are also lifted up. Their mental processes may be peculiar; their duties are no 'battle of the books'; but I stand here to prove that Talbot House encourages their minds to operate. Our Lord was not alarmed by men with minds. He never trusted cleverness *per se:* but He had every use for honest thinking."

"What, up the stairs again, what will they find?"

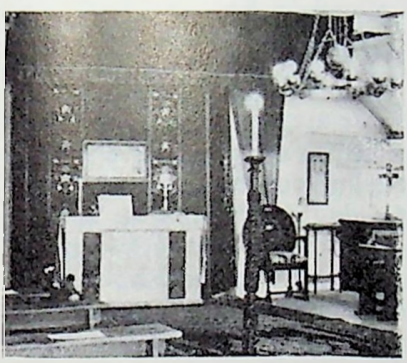
They found their hearts. Their hearts were in their homes. That is the case with most men overseas, whatever kind of duty they are performing. So here upon the second floor the spirit of the house provided pens, ink and paper, and strong envelopes. We have not reached the Holy Table yet; but in a sense tables where men write home are, or can be, extremely holy tables. An Englishman's house is not merely the castle of his independence;

it is far more the place and scene wherein a number are dependent on himself, their well-being is his universe, his supreme care. No doubt his civic sense is, or may be, defective; never mind, his home sense is the highest in the world, and here are ink and pen and blotting-paper all summoning his heart to fatherhood.

So the Old House, itself a home for sons, was well content to watch them staining paper.

There is no further stair; it is a ladder. The stairways represent a certain ease which should exist between a man and men; but no one can be easy towards God, if he is a student of the Christian Gospel. So the ascent becomes a climbing up. Ladders are made for angels and for sinners. It's only in a game that snakes climb ladders, and insincerity cannot succeed.

"Why then", men wondered, even as they climbed, "why then, is here religion not absurd? This Talbot House is pretty popular, men don't avoid it like they would a Church. What is the secret of its influence? They say that it flows down from this attic room—and fancy their keeping this big room unused." And at this stage the stranger reached the top. He somehow felt the room was not empty; partly because in fact it seldom was. Wherever men live under close conditions they long to be alone from time to time; there is something in the spirit of apartness which gives man's soul a breath of the Beyond; he passes from the small and unimportant into a larger and less trivial scene. But man can follow his own philosophy, if he has strength, under surprising circumstances. Here there was not merely a quiet room; here was the Mountain of Transfiguration where men came fearful and dis-



covered courage; where men came blindly and were given light; where men came broken by anxiety and found Another who had will to be broken for them, and that His soul rejoiced. The Living One, in Greek two monosyllables *Ho Zon*, the Master, bending down to be, as they had never known before, their friend, His hand was here.

They realized at last that their first needs on entry mattered little; what they thought mattered, was not everything; that which their human hearts told in their letters might only be a mood of home concern; but here their personality itself was face to face with Someone who rang true. Today, tomorrow, He is no less true.

Night-life in Hazebrouck

BRIAN DICKSON

THOSE VISITING the Old House are well advised to stick to the time-table drawn up for them by our efficient staff at Headquarters. In travelling out in October for the *Assemblée Statutaire Annuelle de l'Association de Talbot House Poperinge*, I, through a bit of real bad luck, missed the Ostend boat from Dover and, after a three-hour wait there, caught the car-ferry to Dunkirk, in the vague hope of hitch-hiking from there to Poperinge, thus rejoining my colleagues on the Saturday morning.

During dinner on the boat I received a kind offer of a lift to Lille, Lausanne or Milan, or to any intermediate town en route. I chose Cassel hoping to reach there before midnight and find a room in the hotel occupied by Lord Plumer and his Second Army H.Q. Staff in the 1914-18 War. Alas there was no sign of life at all in the old town

at the top of the hill and I thought it wiser to try my luck at Hazebrouck. But when my kind friend decanted me there after 1 a.m. the only light I could find was in the railway workers small room at the station, where a lone porter was stretched out asleep on four wooden chairs. I explained my plight as best I could and gladly accepted such hospitality as he could offer. There I spent the first part of what seemed a long night. An hour's sleep on the hard chairs was about all I could relish and after trying in vain to concentrate on William Temple's Lectures *About Christ* (S.C.M. Press), I set out to explore the town where I last spent the night on the floor of the Gendarmerie on my way to rejoin my unit at Ypres in 1915.

I would never have thought any town could be so dark or so dead but I walked a very long way, occasionally relieving the monotony by visiting one of those gentlemanly places provided for our convenience by the municipality in every quarter of the town. At 3.55 a.m. exactly all the cocks and cockerels in the neighbourhood woke up together. Ten minutes later the town lights were suddenly turned on and I was better able to find my way back to the station.

Time passing slowly till 5.30 a.m. when the *éstaminet* opposite the station opened its doors and from then onwards till I caught the dawn bus to Abeele I enjoyed *cafe avecs* with quite 50/60 French workmen calling in for a 'quick one' on their way to work, but not before shaking hands all round. It was all very friendly and refreshing after a longish night, and when I eventually joined the rest of the party in the Slessorium at the Old House about 8 a.m. I decided that it had all been rather fun—in retrospect!

Lunching on deck in glorious sunshine on the return crossing to Dover on the Monday I was reminded of something that Freya Stark once wrote—that the most appreciable thing in life is the pleasure of contrasts.

Romany Fair

ALAN H. ELLIS

TAKE A LARGE collection of fierce ruffians, attired in multi-coloured shirts and scarves. Replace their braces with wide silk cummerbunds, and put on their heads either cloth caps of the loudest checks, or else felt hats or bowlers of ancient lineage. Persuade some to refrain from shaving for several days, give others mock 'sideboards' and moustaches, and look out the largest curtain rings for ear-rings. See that their womenfolk wear their brightest head-scarves, skirts and blouses and let the whole gang loose in a village hall on a Saturday afternoon in October.

The result? Hartley Wintney Toc H Branch's Romany Fair, with the raggle-taggle gipsies in town to staff the stalls in their 'national' dress, and to raise some £320 for Toc H funds in under three hours.

How was it done? The members, now back in more sober clothes, and in more sober moments, can only say: "It was a village effort". And it certainly was, for how else could such a function, arranged by a small band of two dozen members, have such a resounding success.

The same people who have supported us in many Fêtes and Fairs since the war (several years ago we passed the £2,000 mark in contributions to the Family Purse from such events), and others relatively new to our community came forward with a tremendous variety of useful help. Some took over the administration of entire stalls, and one small crisis on the Saturday morning came when the tables allocated for the cake stall were found to be completely inadequate in size for the one hundred home-made cakes of all types and sizes which one friend had

collected from all over the locality. Another friend took over the Produce Stall, a harvest festival of fruit, flowers and vegetables given from market gardens, country estates and cottage plots.

The large amount of second hand clothing (not rummage, please) led to speculation that half the population must have been temporarily reduced to wearing woad: but we were relieved to note that those who attended the Fair seemed to be adequately covered.

Dayton Photographic Agency

Stall-holders at Hartley Wintney's Romany Fair.

The organisation of the needlework and knitwear stall included the placing of many sub-contracts, work being done for many months beforehand. A local newspaper was intrigued to learn of the notice 'Sewers and knitters required' displayed in our meeting room, and we were pleased to accept the resulting publicity.

"I've one or two bits of furniture you can have", or, "Would a bed be of use to you?" Greetings such as these met members in the weeks before the event. Towards the day, offers of furniture had grown to the stage of threatening to fill the hall, so we borrowed a large marquee and erected it against the end of the hall. Although it was

large, by the time we had filled it with suites of furniture wardrobes, chests of drawers, beds of all sizes, with several mattresses each, tables, chairs, several radios, a vacuum cleaner and countless smaller household articles, it resembled one of the well-known 'Walk Round' Stores. What name could this stall be given other than "Steptoe and Son"? The second-hand merchants of television fame cannot possibly hold such a stock as we crammed into this marquee. And we sold it all, with the result that our lorry-owning member who had spent two days prior to the fair carting the furniture to the hall, spent the following two days delivering it to its new owners, who made their purchases on that condition. One chest of drawers found a new home two doors away from where it had been given.

The village Darby and Joan Club said "We want to help", and to have suggested that we did not expect repayment for the help we had given them over the years would have been ungracious so we accepted the offer, and at the end of the day they handed over to us £61, the proceeds from their stall.

A clothes-peg seller and a fortune teller added to the authenticity of the Fair, and when, towards the end of the afternoon, a stranger similarly dressed to our stall-holders slid up to one member in the second-hand department and wheedled "I'll give you a quid for all you have left, Guv," we knew it really was a Romany Fair.

Toc H Diaries

While supplies last, make sure of securing your copy of the Toc H Diary for 1963. It contains much useful information, together with sixteen pages of coloured maps. The price is 4s. 6d. including postage, or 5s. 0d. fitted with pencil.

FAR CRY
-overseas notes

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

OPAL

WE ALL KNOW that many a great human cause first began because of the dedication of one person. Varying in degree and size, instances can be found almost on our own doorsteps, though often they are so familiar that they remain almost unrecognised for their true worth.

The latest to come to our notice is the work of Mrs. Wilding of Brisbane, a keen champion of the Aborigines. The welfare of the Aborigines is a cause which seems to be gaining momentum throughout Australia, and Bill Cowley, who edits the Queensland Area Newsletter, tells the Queensland story, for Toc H is, of course, involved. During the last three years Mrs. Wilding has housed the blind, paralysed, epileptics, deserted, beaten-up, prisoners on parole, insane, prostitutes, murderers and spies.

Now a group of people have got together to consolidate the work she has begun, and it is representative of the Churches, the Department of Native Affairs and various voluntary organisations. They call themselves OPAL, after the many-hued national gem, and their aim is to weld the coloured and white citizens of Australia into *One People*. "To this end," they say, "we shall seek all

possible co-operation and assistance from each to achieve our objective" and it is proposed to co-operate with and work for all coloured people to assist them in finding a respected place in full community life.

These are some of the ways in which they invite the co-operation of people all over Queensland :

Call on any coloured people living in their neighbourhood, inviting them to join in their various functions.

Invite coloured people to co-operate in such community projects as Meals-on-Wheels.

Assist OPAL'S Seaside camps for coloured and white children.

Coax every dark child you meet to continue education. Until they prolong their studies they cannot get beyond low-status employment.

Help towards a scholarship fund for bringing dark children from outback to continue their education.

Help OPAL to build houses for Aborigines by providing land, labour, furnishings, roofing, timber, or anything at all that goes to build a home.

Always spend a little time with dark patients when hospital visiting. Dark patients have been known to come from far places, spend months in hospital, then return home, not having had a single visitor.

Always talk with Aborigines wherever you meet them. They are the friendliest people in the world.

ALONG THE RIVER MURRAY

There is also this item of news from Bill Walton, the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Area.

"No doubt you have heard of the Irrigation Settlements along the River Murray inspired by the Chaffey brothers who pioneered the system in Australia and gave rise to the establishment of our Dried Fruits trade.

It is 75 years ago since this scheme was founded, and Renmark Branch contributed to the 75th Anniversary Celebrations at Renmark by holding the 21st Eisteddfod organised by the Branch. The Competitions extended over a week and played to packed houses. The three Adjudicators were prominent personalities from Adelaide. Renmark is 175 miles from Adelaide, and entrants travelled up to 100 miles to compete.

The Mayor of Renmark, Mr. J. Sharley, in his speech, praised the work of Renmark Toc H as the best achievement in the celebrations of Renmark's 75th year as a Town.

SHA TIN AND THE TYPHOON

Remembering the typhoon in Hong Kong and the tidal wave which hit Sha Tin with such devastating effect, there was general relief when news arrived from John Skelton that Miss Dibden's babies' home was unharmed. This is what he says :

Fortunately Miss Dibden and all at the Babies' Home got off pretty well unscathed. The Home is on an elevated site, well clear of the main village, river and sea front, and therefore could only be affected by the action of the hurricane force winds. You will have read of the terrible havoc caused by the huge tidal wave, whipped to an intense ferocity by the winds at the height of the typhoon. The telephones were completely out for some considerable time following the typhoon and therefore we were unable to get any real information, and with the limited access, roads being blocked or partially choked with relief vehicles it was impossible to get out there.

Jack MacDonald of Melbourne, blind and completely paralysed, whose dictated letters have infused courage and inspiration to members all over the world.

Two Christmas Pictures

A. Sampson, Bude

Two youngsters attach their gifts for less fortunate children to the Christmas tree placed in the foyer of the local cinema by Bude Branch.

Telegraph and Argus, Bradford

Keighley members and nurses singing carols for the patients at St. Johns Hospital.

Sonnet for Christmas Babies

Sweet Christmas babes, with white or dusky skin,
Who wake to life in Britain, you belong
To parents from New Delhi or Berlin,
Accra or Bridgetown, London or Hong Kong.
'Pop' tunes will lull your sleep; each wondrous birth
Will bring no fame, though newsreels tell the course
Of some new spaceman, hurtling round the earth,
Of details of a film-star's third divorce.
And yet sin's much the same as when God's Son
Gave His first cry : greed seems to gain control ;
Power rules through fear ; and many a blameless one
Still flees from death of body and of soul.
Nevertheless, our darlings, have no dreads :
Christ reigns, and all His host shall guard your beds.

DOROTHY FLANN

Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ALLISON.—On October 25, HARRY ALLISON, aged 58, the Chairman and a founder member of Portmadoc Branch. Elected 23.10.'39.

AMOS.—On September 29, ALFRED ROBERT AMOS ('Bert'), aged 77, a founder member of Weybridge Branch. Elected 24.6.'26.

BENNETT.—On August 23, Canon IVOR STERNDALE BENNETT, aged 74, a member of Stamford Branch and Welland District Padre. Elected 1.11.'54.

BENSON.—On August 30, CHRISTOPHER JOHN BENSON, aged 64, a member of Rochester Branch. Elected 30.1.'35.

BROOKES.—On October 2, EDWARD C. BROOKES, aged 69, a member of Chepstow Branch. Elected 16.10.'31.

BURROWS.—In March, EDWIN BURROWS, aged 54, a member of Rathgar Branch. Elected 16.10.'44.

CHAPPELL.—In October, FREDERICK WILLIAM CHAPPELL, a member of Portsmouth Branch. Elected 21.4.'36.

CROME.—On October 29, GEORGE VICTOR CROME, aged 47, a member of Barking Branch. Elected 24.8.'53.

HENESS.—On October 21, T. HAROLD HENESS, aged 70, a founder member of Newport (Mon.) Branch. Elected 17.9.'28.

MARTIN.—On October 27, WILLIAM MARTIN ('Pop'), aged 76, a member of Gillingham Branch. Elected 14.10.'34.

MATTHEWS.—On October 13, EDMUND MATTHEWS, aged 75, a member of Kirby Muxloe Branch. Elected 1.3.'40.

MOODY.—On September 7, ERNEST LESLIE MOODY, aged 54, a member of Totnes Branch. Elected 11.10.'30.

NEWTON.—On October 25, ARCHIBALD HUGH NEWTON, aged 63, a member of Hinckley Branch. Elected 10.12.'47.

OXLEY.—On October 10, THOMAS SEDGER OXLEY, aged 79, a member of Sidcup Branch. Elected Antwerp Branch 31.12.'27.

SCOBLE.—On October 1, DOUGLAS SCOBLE, ('Dad'), aged 85, a member of Plympton Branch. Elected 9.9.'49.

SHOREY.—On October 11, FREDERICK WALTER SHOREY, aged 76, a member of Chudleigh Branch. Elected 10.9.'59.

SMITH.—On October 16, WILLIAM DAVENPORT SMITH, aged 53, the Secretary of Cumbernauld Branch. Elected 8.11.'51.

SUMMERHAYES.—On October 15, ALBERT DOUGLAS SUMMERHAYES, aged 51, the Treasurer and a founder member of Godreaman Branch. Elected 17.11.'39.

YOUNG.—On October 21, REGINALD ERNEST YOUNG, aged 57, a member of Southend-on-Sea Branch. Elected 31.3.'53.

In Memoriam

GEORGE VICTOR CROME

George quietly spread his cheery influence beyond Barking Branch in ways gratefully remembered by patients and ex-patients of many hospitals. It all started when he helped to arrange entertainment at Dagenham Sanatorium and this soon spread to hospitals all over Essex. Concert parties dramatic societies, choirs and bands, were persuaded to become willing co-operators and in the background George was the liaison with the Hospital authorities, helping to organise transport and hospitality for these performances. He was also among the founders of one of the first clubs formed in Essex for the physically handicapped.

George's cheerfulness at all times hid signs of inward and undisclosed suffering, occasioned through having been in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, which undoubtedly hastened his death, and we proudly remember him as one of the many Elder Brethren whose lives are examples of modest effectiveness. A.E.W.

Homeless People

CECILIA GOODENOUGH

On July 19, this year the select committee set up by the L.C.C. to examine the problem of London's homeless presented their report. In a coherent and objective study of the situation extending over 25 pages they found that there are at present 4,000 homeless people within the county boundary and that this number is likely to increase. Large numbers of these people are not inadequate or anti-social but are in the report's own words "ordinary decent Londoners".

Some of us know London's homeless. They are our friends and neighbours. We know the tragedy and in-

dignity that surrounds life in some of the large institutions where they are accommodated.

We know too that the responsibility for this is not to be laid at the door of those who run these places. Many do a most difficult work against great odds with devotion and sacrifice. But the situation is an affront to a so-called Christian society. It is a stigma on the "affluent society" in which everyone is supposed to be on the up ¶ and up. And what is needed is a widespread recognition by Christian public opinion that the continuance of such a state of things is intolerable.

We are not to take the easy way out by either remaining in ignorance or blaming "them" meaning County Hall. Nor are we to say of the homeless "Well it's probably all they deserve". We are to recognise it as a community social responsibility which we face together.

What can we do then ?

1. We can be informed about the facts. (The L.C.C. report can be obtained from Room 113, County Hall, London, S.E.1).
2. We can press our political representatives both central and local for an adequate and creative housing policy.
3. We can welcome and foster housing schemes in our own locality and break down prejudiced opposition to them.
4. We can use our influence to see what empty property in our neighbourhood is used. It is possible to form housing societies to do this.

Because our Lord became incarnate as man this is a religious matter. It is a Christ responsibility. If we say we do not care, we are lining ourselves up with those who put the unborn Christ in a stable and made his infant life that of a refugee.

Toc H with its long and honourable record of Christian service must surely leap to the support of a cause which is so near to its ideals.

FROM ALL PARTS

-area news

BEDS & HERTS

Two years ago GOFFS OAK Branch, our lone unit on North London's border, were in a far from happy state, then they moved to CUFFLEY incorporating them in their title. This move necessitated almost a complete re-start, it was therefore, especially pleasing to see such a number of guests that welcomed Mayne Elson to speak during October. Although well-wishers from our own Area were rather scant many came from North London, and we look forward to more encouraging news of their activities from this one lone outpost at Cuffley and Goffs Oak.

The last weekend in October is traditionally WOLVERTON'S and again this year they lived up to their reputation as hosts. After the Area Executive had been their guests in the afternoon, over 120 members, Builders and friends welcomed George Davis, Chairman of the Central Executive, Freddie Petch, Area Chairman, Geoff Martin, Overseas Secretary, and many notable Builders to their Dinner. Amidst the grave to the gay speeches, the highlight was from one of the three District Nurses of Wolverton and New Bradwell who braved the 'men only' gathering to accept their well earned privilege of being Guests of Honour.

Many challenges await this Branch if they are to live up to the view that life begins at 40. The following Sunday we were pleased to welcome Herbert Leggate to preach at the Branch Re-dedication Service and he emphasised the policy this Branch must adopt in looking onwards and outwards during the forthcoming years. The night before, accepting the Areas challenge, Eric Swannell, Branch Chairman, promised an equally effective unit at Stony Stratford, their near neighbours, and a Rushlight ¶ in the present barren lands at Newport Pagnell before their 41st birthday celebrations next year, because as Herbert so rightly warned us, 'members and movements who seek the limelight must be very careful that they are not on the way out'.

RAY FABES.

SCOTLAND

As a result of hard work put in by the Aberdeen W.A. Branch a new group of Toc H has been started in that City and some dozen men have gathered together and a number of meetings held. The Area Secretary, Scotland, would welcome the names of former members, or others interested, who have moved from elsewhere in Britain to Aberdeen and who would be contacted if addresses are given.

Scotland was privileged to receive the Founder Padre, and some 200 members took the opportunity of meeting him informally at a Guest-night in EDINBURGH: members travelled from as far afield as PRESTWICK and AYR in the south west and DUNDEE and CRIEFF in the north and from the Border country.

Walter Sneddon

Tubby talks to Toc H members at an Edinburgh Guest night.

Jack Shaw, having been induced to leave the comfort and security of Liverpool toured Scotland for a week, visiting Crieff, Perth, Dundee, Oakley (Fife), Glasgow and Paisley, and terminated his visit by being principal speaker at a Lanarkshire Training Conference held in Carluke. Scotland was pleased to hear once again their brother Celt and to listen to his interesting and factual accounts of the work of Toc H at home and overseas.

Following on their successful Church Service last year, the new GLASGOW (HYNDLAND) Branch are to hold a Service in East Partick Church which will be broadcast in the Home Service. The Clydebank Burgh Band is to be in attendance and the praise is to be led by the Glasgow Philharmonic Choir assisted by the City of Glasgow Police Choir. A large attendance is expected at this Service. The preacher will be the Rev. A. G. Knight, B.D., Toc H Area Padre, Manchester.

For many years JEDBURGH Branch has run a Toc H Veterans' Club, making full use of their rooms for this purpose. The Branch has had many efforts in the past on behalf of the older

folk of the town but new ground was broken when a Coffee Morning combined with an Art and Photographic Exhibition was held in the local Drill Hall and the sum of £40 raised.

A very inspiring Service was held by ALLOA Branch on the occasion of their annual Re-dedication Service attended by some 80 members and friends. This was followed by a Guest-night attended by members from Crieff, Dunfermline, Stirling and Tillicoultry.

REG STEWART.

MARCHES

This has been a month of Guest-nights and these appear to have all come at once. The Founder Padre paid a visit to WELSHPOOL where a Toc H Rally drew members from a wide area. SHREWSBURY Branch held a Guest-night of an informal nature to see the film *A Lamp Burns* and also to hear Miss Phyllis Wolfe of the Women's Association staff. The real idea behind the Guest-night was to create interest in the possibility of starting a Women's Branch and a large number of the ladies present were able to meet the Guest speaker at the close of the meeting. Miss Wolfe is to visit Shrewsbury to meet them again, and the prospects look very good.

OSWESTRY Branch and the Oswestry W.A. Branch joined in a Guest-night to celebrate the 40th birthday of Toc H in Oswestry. A service held in St. Oswald's Parish Church was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Oswestry, Councillor and Mrs. G. A. Davies, and afterwards the Guest-night was held in the Masonic Hall, where Miss Jean Perry, W.A. Development Appeal Secretary, was the speaker.

T. ROMANIS.

WESTERN LONDON

EALING Branch, which is passing through a prolonged lean period when the members are only too conscious of their small numbers and increasing ages, show no signs of owning discouragement. They realise that their greatest asset is their premises, a spacious building next to Northfields Underground Station which takes a good deal of keeping up both in time and money. It is used by Toc H for District and Area meetings and the Men's and Women's Branches have run a Blind Club there for many years. Recently it was realised that there was a need in Ealing for a club for young deaf people, so this was promptly established and has been running successfully for over three months. Social evenings are held on alternate Tuesdays and the activities include billiards, table-tennis, darts, cards and similar recreations. Leadership is in the hands of parents of deaf children and others who have had experience in this field. Toc H provides light refreshments. It doesn't sound very elaborate, but a very great amount of preliminary work was entailed which is now being well rewarded. More young people handicapped by deafness are beginning to make use of the club, which is coming out of the early experimental stage and being made better known.

MAYNE ELSON.

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY

On a sunny Sunday in October nearly forty men and women from the Branches in the DESBOROUGH District proved that they care enough about training in Toc H to assemble at Caversham Court, Reading, by courtesy of the local Branch, where with John Larter, Area Padre, they engaged in keen discussion on the ingredients which make good Toc H units today and tomorrow.

The outstanding impression is of a day well spent in excellent fellowship, providing an opportunity to get to know our Area Padre and each other better, and to evaluate together the aims and objects of Toc H through the talks which ensued both in and out of the appointed sessions.

A picnic lunch, preceded by hot soup, and accompanied by hot sausage rolls, was taken in the warm sunshine in pleasant riverside surroundings, and we are indebted to Vincent and Mrs. Carter and their daughter for the splendid tea they prepared and served for us.

Many of us were able to remain for Evensong at St. Peter's, Caversham, while others had to hasten away to take part in Harvest Festival services at their own Churches. Padre Guy Armstrong, an old member of Maidenhead Branch, now Curate of St. Peter's, preached an inspiring sermon which crystallised the message of Toc H and sent us home feeling that the day had really held a blessing for us.

DERICK PARSONS.

EAST ANGLIA

Though the Area Week-end at Overstrand held during October was not attended by quite as many members as usual, it was nevertheless voted as one of the most useful held for some time. This was largely due to the lead given by Jack Shaw, the Guest Speaker. Jack took 'A Critical Look at Toc H' and then suggested 'The Constructive Way Forward'. Jack's lead was reflected by the excellence of the group discussions, and at the final session on the Sunday afternoon the groups came back with a number of questions which suggested that Jack had succeeded in 'stretching the minds of members'.

The following Saturday, GOGS Division held a Training Day at Mildenhall. This was the first of its kind in the Division and was something of an experiment. It proved in the event to be highly successful and attended by over forty members. Thanks are due to Ray Fabes (Beds and Herts Area) for an excellent lead on 'Extension' and we hope Ray may look for the real thanks due to him in news of fresh starts having been successfully undertaken.

And speaking of extension, the Area welcomes the new group at Ely, which commenced regular meetings at the beginning of the month. First indications are that steady growth is likely to be made. To let the citizens of Ely know that Toc H has arrived, the group has launched an appeal for funds to provide a guide dog for a local blind person.

REG SMITH.

EAST YORKSHIRE

For some time now the WEST HULL and COTTINGHAM Branches have been conscious of the need for a day centre, to cater for the aged and lonely people of Anlaby. They set to work by cleaning up and repainting their meeting room, which is owned by Toc H, and then invited representatives of various local organisations to a meeting, in order to discuss the matter. All were very keen and the Hull Lions Club, through their representative at the meeting, gave a cheque for £21. At a later date a cheque for £10 arrived from two well-wishers. The local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Gould, attended the meeting, and made the novel suggestion that each member of the club should be presented with a key, so giving a feeling of part membership. The Club is now open, and a committee formed to discuss the raising of funds etc. With a growing number of aged people in the area it is expected that the club will be well used.

Hull Daily Mail

A party of disabled people from Hull, guests of Bridlington Branches on an outing to Sewerby Hall.

Recently a party of disabled people from the city of Hull were the guests of BRIDLINGTON Branch and the W.A. Branch. This is an annual event and this year there were approximately 100 guests, all recruited by a Hull member, Ted Jones, who also arranged transport for the party. The Mayor and Mayoress of Bridlington provided a Civic Welcome, entertaining the guests at Sewerby Hall, and a local church youth club gave their services and were responsible for a well-appreciated Concert after tea.

A new Toc H group has been formed at Staxton, a large village right out in the Yorkshire Wolds. RILLINGTON, AYTON, and BRIDLINGTON Branches share responsibility for this new venture. When the car which was to have taken a party of members to the Staxton meeting failed to turn up, a grievously crippled member of Bridlington Disabled Fellowship came to the rescue and took the members to Staxton in his invalid car. The crippled man had received many visits from Toc H members in Bridlington some years ago, when he was bed-fast, and he welcomed this opportunity of doing something for Toc H in return. The meeting at Staxton was the vital one, when the decision to start a

group was taken, so Toc H in the Wolds District has been handsomely rewarded for their help to a crippled man a long time ago.

BILL HARDY.

Berrows Newspapers Ltd., Hereford

The young guests with Hereford members on their way to Weston-super-Mare. (See story below).

WEST MIDLANDS

With the help of the Hereford County Council Childrens' Welfare Department, HEREFORD Branch selected ten boys from 'broken' homes, whose ages ranged from 9 to 14 years, to go on a seaside holiday. Four members gave up part of their holidays to take these lads for a week's stay at Weston-super-Mare from August 19-26, where we had splendid co-operation from MILTON Branch, who not only placed their hall at our disposal for accommodation, but provided us with camp beds, blankets, electricity and gas, all free of charge. We had our mid-day meal each day at the '69' Restaurant and provided the other meals ourselves in the good-sized kitchen at the hall. We had very good weather with only one wet day, and the lads certainly enjoyed themselves, and so did we. Beach games included a cricket match against the Weston Rotary Lads Home, and we visited the open-air swimming pool, the Fun Fair, Knightstone Baths, the Lifeboat on the Old Pier and Bristol Zoo.

We had a coach to convey the party to and from Weston and rather than have it run empty one way, we included in our holiday a day by the sea for thirty boys from Bodenham Manor School (a home for nervous and backward children), with fifteen of them coming on one Sunday and the remainder the following Sunday, the day we returned to Hereford.

Later we received a very nice letter of thanks from the Childrens Welfare Officer of the Herefordshire County Council who had visited the boys and their foster parents. The eldest lad in our party, aged 14, showed quite an interest in Toc H and we shall try to keep in touch with him, in fact we are inviting all the boys to our meeting to see a film of the holiday.

BERT TAYLOR.

Iain Fraser gets first-hand information at Oakley Slate Quarry before speaking at Blaenau Ffestiniog.

LINCOLNSHIRE

It is encouraging to note the forward trend towards stability recorded in recent months are also now mirrored in the financial picture for the Area with a total well beyond last year's figure.

This is largely due to a magnificent effort on the part of Sydney Swain who in just over a year has covered the whole of the Area and gained for us some hundreds of new Builders whilst encouraging some old members to come back into active membership again. 'Thank you Sydney'.

Internally too there has been greater activity. Many units and Districts, in order to bolster their contributions to the Family Purse have held Special Efforts with most encouraging results. HORNCASTLE organised a Gala Ball and raised over £50 whilst a Whist Drive by SOUTHWOLD District brought in another £13. In the HUMBER District the sale of bulbs was combined with a sale of work and everyone was delighted with over £30 profits. EAST PINCHBECK continue to raise a considerable sum through the nation-wide sale of best Spalding bulbs, and SUTTON-ON-SEA, their Hospital Car Fund being well taken care of, decided to send an extra £20 to the Family Purse this year as a result of their Gala Nights. The total has been made up with lesser sums contributed equally as enthusiastically by smaller units through smaller efforts.

Whilst one would certainly not ignore the fact that a few units have still not even made a token contribution to the Family Purse, the picture on the whole in the Area has suddenly become

encouraging and more gratifying than for some years past, and many are coming to realise the truth that once we get our appreciation of Toc H right in the units then many other things will follow.

GEORGE LEE.

Devonshire Press, Torquay

"The Rag Trade" portrayed by local members in the Totnes Carnival.

WESTERN

A considerable amount of work has been done by the Extension Officer for WEST MENDIP District and he has enthused the Team with the possibility of re-starting a Branch in Winscombe and also forming a unit in Axbridge. His enthusiasm is infectious, and one hopes that this disease will become 'serious'. BRISTOL District are planning to hold a Fair in May which will involve all members, men and women, in the District. They hope not only to reap a good reward for the Family Purse but to attract more men and women to the Toc H Family. Plans are already well in hand in the GLOUCESTER District for a repeat of the 'Raid the Larder' scheme which was such a great success last year. MID COTSWOLD District held a meeting at the end of November when members were able to meet some of the many new Builders brought into the Family by the recent visits of Sydney Swain. SWINDON and CHIPPENHAM Districts enjoyed their get-together at Swindon on the occasion of the visit of Colin Cuttell. The gathering was a large one and the whole atmosphere of the evening was very warm and friendly.

Bristol University group, together with some of the Exeter University members, are carrying out the experiment of a mixed party at Dor Knap for a weekend. This may well be the beginning of many such weekends and a fuller report of the experiment will be given later.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

EAST MIDLANDS

Recent activities carried out in IVANHOE District have included an outing for residents of the Staunton Home, and working parties to set out the stalls at the Cheshire Home Fete. Help was given at the garden party to help the Freedom from Hunger Campaign where £15 was raised at a joint Bottle Stall. Members undertook stewarding at the Festival of Youth in aid of the National Childrens Home at Ashby, and help was given with concerts at Bretby Hospital, Cycling Trials at Measham, the '60's Club' entertainments at Packington, and working as lift attendants at Burton Infirmary. Most Branches collect waste paper as a means of money raising, and Ashby help at the Annual Harvest Festival at the Bull Inn, the proceeds of which go to their New Year Party for the old people.

TOM PEARSON.

NORTHERN

GUISBOROUGH group are to stage a public meeting to discuss the 'Boundary Commission Recommendations', with particular reference to Teeside, when the speaker will be the Chairman of the local U.D.C. RICHMONDSHIRE District has undertaken a long-term piece of service at Morris Grange, near Scotch Corner, run by the British Red Cross Society for holidays for the handicapped. They will be responsible for looking after the grounds, and boys from Schools in that part of the Area might be asked to help. CHESTER-LE-STREET Branch continues its fortnightly help to the physically handicapped. Recent efforts to increase the Branch have produced some young lads, who in turn have been helping in a door-knocking operation to interest others. MARK XVIII are planning an 'outward-bound' venture under the name of Expedition Group. They hope by early next year to be taking small groups of boys from different schools into the country for strenuous camping week-ends. NEWBIGGIN Branch continues its work with disabled children. BEDLINGTON Branch has spent some of its energies on putting the Parish Church footpaths in good order. Jack Harrison visited the area in November and spoke at ASHINGTON and DARLINGTON. A sandwich lunch club is now held in the Area Office every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m.

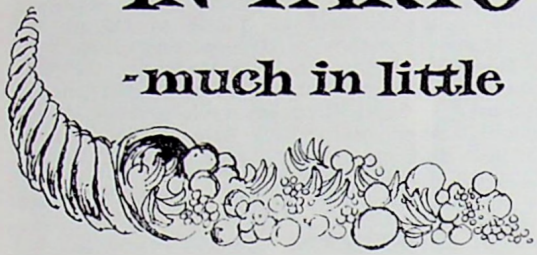
LES WHEATLEY.

Don't just say brown

—say Hovis

MULTUM IN PARVO

-much in little



¶ The Viscount Cobham, lately Governor-General of New Zealand, has accepted appointment as a Vice-President of the Toc H Association.

Sir James Brown and Sir Miles Clifford have expressed their willingness to accept the office of Trustee (in addition to Sir Henry Willink) if so appointed by the Central Council.

The Rev. R. J. Davies, Administrative Padre, is leaving his present parish of Ayot to become Rector of Aston - with - Benington, Stevenage, Herts.

John E. Mitchell has been appointed to be an Assistant Schools Secretary, joining the staff on January 1.

Ralph S. Thorne has been appointed Hon. Area Correspondent for Beds. & Herts.

John Calle and his wife are now visiting members in South and Central Africa.

Frank Loring has been appointed Hon. Divisional Pilot for South Wales Division.

Branch Accounts Forms are due now; Branch Members' Rolls by January 15.

Central Councillors are asked to send in notices of motion and other matters for discussion by January 25; also nominations of candidates for the Central Executive by February 28; and to make opportunities for discussion of council matters with all their Branches prior to the Annual Meeting on April 20-21.

The Toc H Stamp Appeal has brought in £53 for the Family Purse this year. Foreign stamps (and U.K. over 4d) should continue to be sent to Charles Wake at 475 Roxborough Avenue, Rockcliffe Park, Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada.

Two Reminders for Branch Treasurers

JACK HARRISON

Branch Members' Personal Accident Insurance.

THIS SCHEME has now been in operation for two years and it has already proved to be a boon to the unfortunate member or probationer who might be injured accidentally at a Toc H meeting, while engaged on a Toc H job, or in transit thereto or therefrom. Voluntary helpers (non-members) may also be included by special arrangement between the Branch and Headquarters.

It may not be generally realised that the insurance of members of the Branches which expressed their wish to join the scheme is automatically renewed at the beginning of each year, and the appropriate renewal premiums are charged to Headquarters by our Insurers.

In view of the smallness of the premium (1s. 2d. per member per annum) and of the very large number of Branches involved, the sending of renewal notices in every case would be uneconomic and an unnecessary burden on the staff at Headquarters. Will Branch Treasurers please note, therefore, that renewal premiums are due on the 1st of January of each year and are based on the membership at that date, with the adjustment of half-a-year's debit for each new member during the preceding year and half-a-year's credit for each member lost during that year.

If, unfortunately, any Branch should wish to withdraw from the scheme, notification to that effect must be sent to Jack Harrison before December 31, otherwise there will be an unnecessary charge on the Family Purse.

Rates

Several Branches have asked, from time to time, if and how they can get some reduction in the rates they pay on their Headquarters premises. Sometimes an application to the local Rating Authority has resulted in a reduction on sympathetic grounds in view of the work done locally by the Branch. Local Authorities still have this power to reduce rates for charitable organisations. But in addition to this voluntary permissible action, H.M. Government have decided that some compulsory reduction must be granted willy-nilly to the Charitable organisations who are registered with the Charity Commissioners.

From April 1, 1963, Local Authorities must allow a 50% reduction in rates payable on properties wholly used for charitable purposes providing local charities have applied for the reduction and are in fact registered with the Charity Commissioners. Local Authorities have power to grant a further reduction if they so decide.

How does this affect Toc H Branches? In the first place Toc H Headquarters has registered with the Charity Commissioners and this registration covers all Toc H Branches. A condition of this arrangement is that all Branches will send their annual audited accounts to Toc H H.Q. via their Hon. Area Treasurers each year. Provided this condition is observed Toc H H.Q. will be able to support any application made by Branches for reduction of rates.

In the second place the action to be taken by all Branches who pay rates is to write at once to your Town Clerk saying that Toc H is registered with the Charity Commissioners (reference 211042) and apply for a reduction in the rates payable from April 1, 1963. The Act to quote in this letter is the Rating and Valuation Act. 1961 Section 11.

You have been advised what to do. The next step is up to you.

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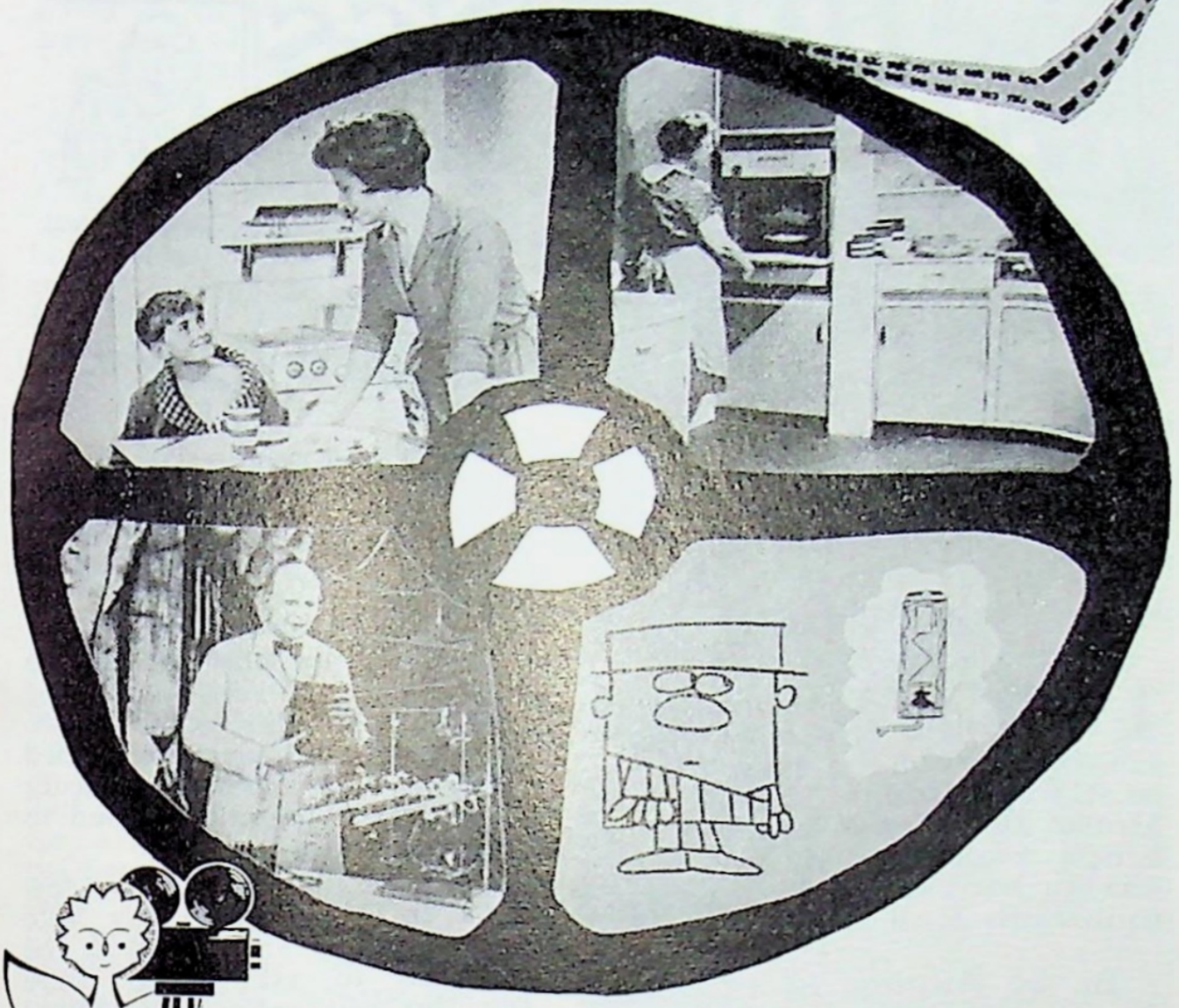

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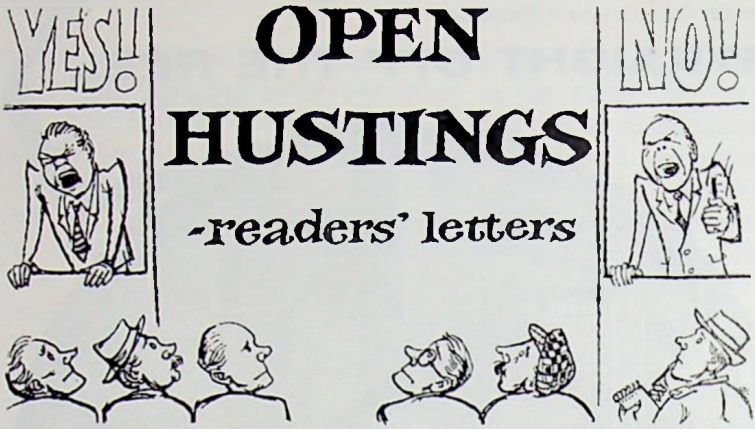


The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

'The New Plaque'

I WAS VERY interested in the article in the October JOURNAL about the New Plaque as it was through Little Talbot House that I was brought into touch with Toc H, my name having been found on the Communicants Roll there.

In the Autumn of 1917, No. 39 Siege Battery RGA with which I was serving in the Salient, had its rest billets in dug-outs on the Lille Road, when Padre Goodwin established himself in a reinforced cellar under the ruins of the Convent there, and opened a small canteen for passers-by.

The cellar served as a Chapel, with an altar at one end, and Officers and Men of the Battery used to attend Communion Services at 8 a.m. on Sundays, and evening services when they were not on duty.

In the Spring of 1918, Ypres became unhealthy owing to German shell-fire coinciding with their attacks to the South, and the house was abandoned after the services on Easter Day, when the town ceased to be a rest area.

Some years ago I spent a few days in Ypres with my wife and daughter and called at the Convent to ask if we could see the old cellar, but found that this was impossible as it was in use as a store. The Sister, however, kindly showed us over the School attached to the Convent.

When I last saw Tubby I spoke to him about Little Talbot House, and he said that at that time he was not in contact with any other person who remembered the House in 1917-18. Perhaps an enquiry through the JOURNAL might bring to light other survivors!

J. F. BAILEY.

Bournemouth.

Christmas Gifts

WITH the approach of the Christmas season, when lists are being drawn up for the giving of presents, may I suggest that all members place Toc H at the top of their lists, and send a personal gift, however small, to the Family Purse.

This will, I am sure, be a strengthening of the family bond between us, a source of encouragement to our Treasurer, and a further means of meeting our obligations.

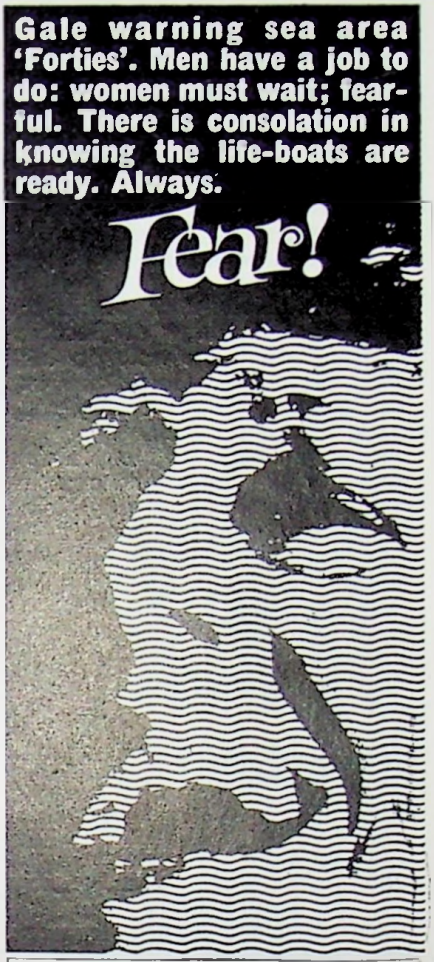
SYD. WOODALL.
Whipton Branch,
Exeter.

Toc H/Belra Garden Party

DESPITE the rather rainy weather, visitors to this year's Toc H and Belra Garden Party at The Holme, Bedford College, Regents Park, found a wonderful array of stalls and sideshows for their enjoyment in what is surely one of the best and most delightful spots for a garden party, right in the heart of London and yet so deep in the country is the impression one gets. Our thanks are due to all who helped towards the success of the garden party from which just over £290 net profit was made.

To anyone planning a visit to London next year, and to all members in the London Area, may we suggest that you make a note in your diaries to be here on July 20 when we will be holding our Thirteenth Garden Party.

DAVID C. BLUFF,
Hon. Sec. Toc H and Belra Garden Party Committee.
London, W.1.



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RNLI

Information Bureau

HAVING recently attended a joint Area Council Meeting at Liverpool, at which the main speaker was the Rev. Jim Davies the Administrative Padre, I wish to take up a remark he made regarding a central bureau of information on jobs that can be done by Branches.

Surely this is well within the scope of the JOURNAL. Recently there was an article on Mill Hills' film unit. Could this not be done on a country-wide basis taking each type of Branch activity, and explaining how it was started, the cost involved, the method of raising the money, and the organisation needed to contact. The JOURNAL could then be kept for reference, as many technical magazines are, and may serve as a stimulant for those Branches who have no particular job, and little idea as to how to start one.

Although I enjoyed reading the article about Mill Hill, I think that had less space been given to what they do, and more to how it was started, and what it involves in time, money etc., it would have had far more impact on dormant Branches.

R. GARBETT.

Accrington, Lancs.

The article was by no means limited to the one film units' activities. Many members draw inspiration from our regular feature 'From All Parts' and, incidentally, use back numbers of the JOURNAL *for reference.*—ED.

Vic Martin Testimonial

MOST MEMBERS of the Warden Family will have heard of the premature retirement of Vic and 'Bill' Martin from Warden Manor on account of the rapid deterioration in Bill's health and followed so soon afterwards by her death in March of this year.

There may, however, be quite a number who, for varying reasons, have not received the circular letter recently issued inviting contributions towards a monetary retirement gift for Vic. It was felt by many of us in the Warden Family that this would be a fitting demonstration of our appreciation for all the unselfish service so loyally rendered by Vic and Bill over the years.

The purpose of this letter is to provide an opportunity for anyone who might otherwise have been missed, to contribute to this retirement gift. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'The Vic Martin Testimonial' and sent to me without delay.

ALAN HAWKINS.
Hon. Treasurer.

61 *Glencoe Road,*
Bushey, Watford, Herts.

Man for the Job

The treasurer of the Toc H Branch at Wisbech, Cambs., is called Mr. William Cashmore-Till.

Evening Standard 7·11·62

Printed by Marshall, Davenport, 2 Newham's Row, London, S.E.1.

Journal Smalls

Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

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